

# Vital Signs

*Thank you for your support*



## Our Voice

### Media

NZMA Chair Kate Baddock talked with a number of media outlets on COVID-19 including: [TVOne News](#), Newshub, Radio NZ, Stuff, NZ Doctor and other media - not all of these have aired at time of publication.

NZMA GPC Chair Jan White also spoke with a number of media outlets including [TV3](#) and [NZ Doctor](#) on COVID-19, the necessary provision for personal protective equipment and the folly of underfunding general practice.

### Diary

GPLF met this week at NZMA House  
NZMA Chair, Kate Baddock and NZMA CEO Lesley Clarke also met with the Minister of Health this week as part of the GPLF delegation.

The General Practitioner Council met this week.

**NZMA submissions seeking your feedback**

NZMA is requesting feedback for our submissions:

1. Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill
  2. Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Bill.
- You will need to scroll down to find out more.



## COVID-19

### ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DOCTORS IN DISASTER RESPONSE

Medical professionals are at the frontline of the coronavirus response.

"While doctors have a duty of care to look after the health and wellbeing of individual patients, they also have a duty to protect themselves as well as other patients, staff, colleagues and the wider public from harm. Further, doctors have a personal interest in protecting their own families and whānau from harm." - *Duty of care during disaster response.*

It is **vital** that medical professionals are supported during and after a disaster response such as the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

To support our profession, NZMA has just released a new [position statement](#) entitled *Ethical Considerations for Doctors in Disaster Response*.

Please email [Sanji](#) with any queries you may have.

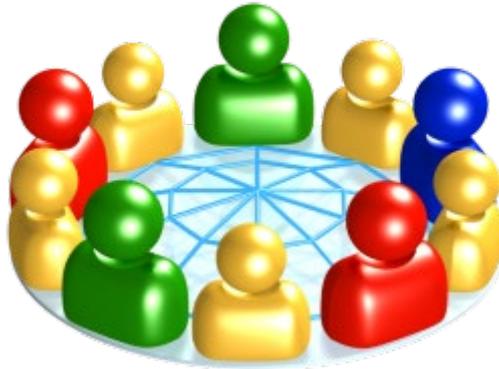
#### COVID-19 Information

- Please go to the [Ministry of Health website](#) for the latest information.
- The Ministry's website is updated daily.
- When we become aware of any change to the information, we will highlight this to you in our communications.

## COVID 19 INFORMATION

As new information comes to light we will share this with you.

In the meantime the [Ministry of Health](#) is updating their website daily.



## PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MECA: URGENT

**If you have not yet sent in your ratification form please do so urgently as it is now overdue.**

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) and the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) have been re-negotiating the Primary Health Care (PHC), Multi Employer Collective Agreement (MECA). Agreement was reached with the NZNO for them to take an offer from employers to their members.

The key points to note in the proposed terms of settlement are:

- A 2.5% increase in pay rates for all employees employed under the PHC MECA backdated to 1 September 2019
- A 2% increase in pay rates for all employees employed under the PHC MECA from 1 September 2020
- These increases apply to the current steps only; no new steps have been agreed
- Changes to the merit level criteria for registered nurses
- A new family violence clause which reflects recent legislation

It is proposed that the new collective agreement will take effect from the date of ratification and signature and will run until 31 August 2021, with changes to pay rates taking effect from 1 September 2019 and another increase from 1 September 2020. The term of the agreement is two years.

We believe that this offer is reasonable for employers in the current environment and current funding.

The agreement needs to be ratified by 67% or more of the employers represented by NZMA in order to go to NZNO ratification and, subsequently, to be ratified by more than 50% of NZNO members.

**Note**

*A separate communication went to our GP members (and employer parties to the MECA) detailing the ongoing NZMA advocacy to close the current pay gap between primary care and DHB nurses.*



## ELECTIONS CLOSE MIDNIGHT TONIGHT FRIDAY 13 MARCH

### LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR NOMINATION IN

#### Our advocacy | Your leadership

We are only as strong as our collective voice. Be part of our leadership where change begins and decisions are made. NZMA is a strong advocate on medico-political issues, with a strategic programme of advocacy with politicians and officials across the board.

**a) NZMA Board - two positions**

**b) Doctors-in-Training Council - four positions**

**c) Specialist Council - one position**

Download the [nomination form here](#), fill in and email to [nzma@nzma.org.nz](mailto:nzma@nzma.org.nz)

More [information here](#).

Your current leadership information [here](#).

- All nominations must have the endorsement of the nominee.
- Nominations close **midnight Friday 13 March**.
- If more nominations are received than positions available, an election will be held.

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## NZMA President nominations

*President Dr Sue Hayde finishes her two-year term at the NZMA AGM on 19 May.*

*Nominations from the membership are now open for this position, which, under the constitution, will be elected by the Board on 21 April.*

*If you would like to nominate someone, please email [NZMA](#).*



## NZ MEDICAL JOURNAL NOW OUT

[Read the full journal](#) (you will need your login). A bumper issue with two editorials, articles and letters. Editorial links below.

**OPEN Access - [Editorial 1](#):**

**Politicians: Please work together to minimise the spread of COVID-19**

*David Murdoch et al*

With COVID-19 now present in New Zealand, and the situation a genuine health crisis, it is essential our political leaders work together and use their influence to minimise the impact of the virus in our community.

## [Editorial 2](#)

### **Mentally ill people in our prisons are suffering human rights violations**

*Erik Monasterio, Susanna Every-Palmer, Jackie Short, Krishna Pillai, Peter Dean, James Foulds*

The New Zealand prison population has more than doubled since 2000 despite little change in serious crime over that period. The population sits at just over 10,000. Māori are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, and Māori women especially so. Over 50% of prisoners and 60% of female prisoners are Māori, despite Māori being 16.5% of the total population.



## **RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT BILL - YOUR FEEDBACK SOUGHT**

Submissions have been called for the [Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill](#).

The Bill aims to make a range of changes to modernise the Residential Tenancies Act 1986 so it better fits with today's renting environment. It aims to balance the rights and obligations of tenants and landlords. Changes the Bill would make include:

- increasing security of tenure for tenants who are meeting their obligations
- improving compliance with the law by increasing financial penalties and giving the regulator more power to take action when parties don't meet their obligations
- clarifying the rules about minor changes to premises, such as fitting earthquake proofing
- requiring landlords to facilitate the installation of ultra-fast broadband, subject to specific triggers and exemptions
- prohibiting the solicitation of rental bids by landlords and limiting rent increases to once every 12 months
- improving tenants' ability to assign their tenancy when that is reasonable
- supporting tenants' ability to assert their legal rights.

**Feedback Due Wednesday 18 March**

Email feedback to [Sanji](#)



**NZMA SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK ON VAPING BILL**

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Bill has been introduced to Parliament and is expected to go to Select Committee shortly. The MoH has prepared a [fact sheet](#) outlining the key changes that are proposed in the Bill relating to the regulation of the sale and supply of vaping products. These changes include the following:

- ban on sales to persons under 18
- prohibition of advertising and sponsorship
- prohibition of vaping in smokefree areas
- tailored packaging requirements to be set in regulations
- product safety requirements to be set out in regulations
- manufacturers and importers to notify products to MoH before they can be sold
- two types of vaping retailers (generic and specialist) with different requirements and permitted activities
- restrictions on flavours sold at generic retailers (tobacco, mint, menthol) but not at specialist vape retailers.

NZMA's existing position statement on Smokefree New Zealand [is here](#) and addresses vaping (see para 5 in the recommendations). NZMA has also endorsed a joint position on vaping, available [here](#).

**Feedback deadline**

Monday 23 March



## 2019 NZMA & NZMSA TEACHING AWARDS- YOUR FEEDBACK WANTED

The second round of nominations for the 2019 NZMA & NZMSA Teaching Awards is underway. NZMA and NZMSA are looking for examples of excellent teaching displayed by the shortlisted finalists to help the judging panel make their final decision as to whom receives each award.

If you know of, or have worked with any of the below shortlisted candidates and can provide relevant information to help the judges in their decision making then please fill in the feedback forms. You can read the candidate profiles by clicking on the links below and then make your nomination and give your feedback to support the panel in making their decision.

### **RMO Shortlist:**

**Bryan Bae; Thomas Clendon; Diana Fieldwick; Jamie Harvey; and Jonathan Lee**

### **SMO Shortlist:**

**Bronwyn Copeland; Rowan French; Marta Kroo; Kyle Perrin and Tom Thomson**

**Nominations close midnight Sunday 22 March 2020:**

[RMO New Zealand Medical Teaching Award finalist profiles](#) | Nominate [here](#)

[SMO New Zealand Medical Teaching Award finalist profiles](#) | Nominate [here](#)

For more information on the [click here](#).

*Quote*

*The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.*

*Socrates*

## **CLASSIFIED ADS and situations vacant**

*NZMA offers members free classifieds and vacancy advertisements.*

*Check out the NZMJ website's Vacancies page and you may just find your dream opportunity.*

**Latest vacancies and classifieds include the following - just click on the vacancy/classified ad to be taken to the full ad:**

### **Vacancies**

- [Intensivist | Hawke's Bay \(Closes 14 March 2020\)](#)
- [Dr Dundee | Katherine Northern Territory - \(Closes 14 March 2020\)](#)
- [Clinical Director - Cancer Control Agency \(Closes 20 March\)](#)
- [General Practitioner 1/10th \(neg\) | Auckland \(Closes 21 March\)](#)
- [General Practitioner 1/10th \(neg\) | Auckland \(Closes 21 March\)](#)
- [Doctor for Pitcairn Island \(Closes 27 March\)](#)
- [Locum GP | Invercargill \(Closes 31 March\)](#)
- [Associate GP with a view - Raumati South, Greater Wellington \(closes 31 March 2020\)](#)
- [Gastroenterologist - Gastroenterology | Auckland \(Closes 4 April\)](#)
- [GP Required | Te Puke \(Closes 6 April 2020\)](#)
- [Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon | Hawke's Bay \(Closes 6 April\)](#)
- [Specialist Physician for Older People \(1.0FTE\) | Northland DHB \(Closes 11 April\)](#)

### **Classifieds**

- [Auckland General Practice for sale: Central suburbs](#)
- [Solo Rural GP Practice for Sale - Whangarei](#)
- [Practice for sale - Urban Auckland](#)
- [GP partnership for sale - Nelson City](#)
- [Practice for Sale in Auckland Medical Centre](#)

*Members advertise for free - classifieds and/or vacancies via Hotline.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

View our upcoming health sector events - go to the [NZMA events page on our website](#) for the full list.



### THE FOURTH ANNUAL CHOOSING WISELY FORUM

**1 May 2020**

The fourth annual *Choosing Wisely* forum, on 1 May 2020 in Wellington, has a strong focus on equity. *Choosing Wisely – Choosing Equity* includes a panel discussion on *Choosing Wisely*, equity, and unconscious bias, featuring Dr Matire Harwood, Prof David Tipene-Leach, Dr Kyle Eggleton and Dr John Bonning.

Early-bird rates are available until 1 April. The forum is brought to you by the Choosing Wisely campaign, supported by the Health Quality & Safety Commission.

See the [forum event page](#) for more information.



### TWO-DAY TRAINING IN HAVENING TECHNIQUES®

**28 - 29 March 2020**

Havening Techniques are a remarkable, neuroscience-based technique for rapidly treating emotional problems, anxiety, PTSD, phobias and some cases of chronic pain. The breakthrough is the [discovery](#) of a molecular mechanism that can rapidly and permanently erase traumatic memories, alter core beliefs and build resilience and wellbeing.

The trainer, Dr Robin Youngson, is an anaesthetic specialist, author, speaker, campaigner, and renowned international health leader. He is quitting his anaesthetic work to do Havening full time - practice, training and research.

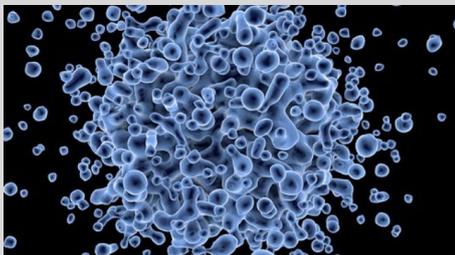
Applicants may become Certified Havening Practitioners by completing an intensive two-day course, 30 supervised case histories, and a science exam.

The next training is in Raglan, the weekend of 28/29th March.

Full details about Havening Techniques and the training are found [here](#).



**MEMBER**  
**BENEFITS**



**NZMA MEMBERS**  
**NO COST ADVERTISING**

NZMA offers members the opportunity to place vacancies for personnel in the NZMJ and Vital Signs free of charge.

Reach the medical professionals you want as many do week on week.



**NZMA GPCME CONFERENCE**

Receive \$150 discount on full registration to the Rotorua or Christchurch GPCME Conferences. The GPCME Conference in Rotorua is New Zealand's biggest annual GP conference. The programme provides a general practice update with short, sharp and to the point clinical content including key take home messages to change practice behaviour immediately. For more information and to register go to [www.gpcme.co.nz](http://www.gpcme.co.nz).

## Member Advisory Service

### *Workplace response to Covid-19*

**Legal responsibilities to employees regarding workplace safety concerns**

Employment issues associated with responding to the coronavirus outbreak are not always clear-cut and should be considered on a case-by-case basis, but there are some basic rules.

Legally, practices must keep their employees safe – this is a requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Broadly speaking, this means taking all reasonably practicable steps to understand the risks that arise for employees, the likelihood of those risks arising, the degree of harm that staff could be caused from those risks, the options to eliminate those risks, and if the risks can't be completely eliminated, the options to minimise the risks...

Members can access the full advisory [here](#). You will need to be logged into the NZMA website to access this information. Alternatively contact Robyn Fell at NZMA for more information.

Vital Signs is your weekly bulletin about the NZMA and 'what's hot'.

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